

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 11, 2007 MINUTES**

On Tuesday, September 11, 2007, a meeting of the Board of Madison County Commissioners came to order at 9:10 a.m. with Commissioners David Schulz, Marilyn Ross, and Jim Hart present.

Marilyn Ross moved to approve the August 28, 2007, minutes as read. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Jim Hart moved to approve the September 7, 2007, special meeting minutes with corrections. Marilyn Ross seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Those people in attendance at the meeting were Chris Mumme, Ellis Thompson, Marilee Tucker, Ross Keogh, Jim McGowan, and Kevin Germain.

**Personal Property Tax Refund:** In accordance to a letter from Brandy Hilton, Department of Revenue, Marilyn Ross moved to request the Treasurer to refund the amount of \$11,966.76 to AM Welles, Inc., P.O. Box 2808, Norris, MT 59745, for double assessment of four pieces of heavy equipment. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Class of County Resolution:** Jim Hart moved to adopt Resolution 26-2007, a resolution designating Madison County as a first class county for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Marilyn Ross seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Incarceration Rate Resolution:** Marilyn Ross moved to approve Resolution 25-2007, a resolution to establish the rate of credit for incarceration. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Fair Board Manager Position:** Having received only one application for the position, Marilyn Ross moved to hire Dana Escott for the permanent position of Fair Manager for the Madison County Fairgrounds in Twin Bridges, Montana, with a salary of \$902.13 per month effective September 16, 2007. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Fire Restrictions:** The Board discussed fire restrictions, and indicated that Forest Service, BLM, and Beaverhead County had all gone from Stage II to Stage I Fire Restrictions. Chris Mumme, Director of Emergency Management was present for this portion of the meeting and recommended that fire restrictions be left at Stage II. The Board took no action on changing fire restrictions.

**Twin Bridges Fuel Site:** The Board discussed fuel prices for the Twin Bridges fuel site.

**Commission on Health Insurance:** Jim Hart moved to designate Vern Veltkamp, Veltkamp Agency, as the agent for the Madison County Medical Insurance Plan, and that the entire amount of commission goes to Mr. Veltkamp and not to the spouse of the late Frank Valgenti. Marilyn Ross seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**Public Hearing – Prospect Wind Tower Permit Application:** The Board conducted a public hearing regarding the application submitted by Prospect Wind, LLC, to extend the height of an existing 30 meter tower which would become a 50 meter high MET tower on a 325 acre parcel of land just east of Bradley Creek Road and approximately two miles southeast of the Norris Junction. Those present for this portion of the meeting were Ellis Thompson, Marilee Tucker, Ross Keogh, and Jim McGowan. Chairman Schulz opened the public hearing and asked the contract planner for his comments. Jim McGowan, Great West Engineering, gave an overview of the project and stated that the tower permit application must be reviewed against three criteria. After reviewing the results of the three criteria, Jim stated that the Planning Office recommends permit approval pending satisfactory resolution of bird mortality issues, and obtaining fire district approval. Ellis Thompson stated that he had concerns that not all adjacent property owners had been notified and that a temporary tower was not an issue but permanent turbines could be. No one at the hearing spoke against the permit application. Marilyn Ross moved to approve the permit application from Prospect Wind, LLC, for one 50 meter anemometer tower in Section 19 and 30 of Township 3 South, Range 1 East, just east of Bradley Creek Road and approximately two miles southeast of the Norris Junction, pending resolution of bird issues and Fire Department approval, per staff recommendation as submitted by Jim McGowan. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

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**Planning Office Transition:** Marilee Tucker, Planning Office Clerk, met with the Board to discuss the Planning Office transition. Marilee stated that she had contacted Dave DeGrandpre to inquire about his interest in reviewing Overall Development Plans.

**Moonlight Basin ODP:** Kevin Germain, Moonlight Basin Ranch, met with the Board to discuss a draft resolution that would amend Resolutions 16-2007 and 22-2007 and would allow for contract planners to review Overall Development Plans for the interim period limiting planning activities. Because this item was not specifically listed on the Commission meeting agenda, the Board will reconsider the resolution at 1:00 p.m. at Huntley Lodge in Big Sky, after having properly advertised.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

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David Schulz, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: September 18, 2007

Minutes prepared by:

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Laurie Buyan, Administrative Assistant

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Peggy Kaatz, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County